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# FEARS OVER FAMILY CUTS

A PROPOSAL to close three out of five children's centres in the Banbury area will "destroy hope" it has been claimed.

Oxfordshire County Council has told staff of the plans, to plug a £61m black hole following a cut in Government funding.

But there are fears the move will hit mothers with children aged under five, who get support and advice from the centres.

The Conservative-run authority has refused to say how many of the 44 centres across the county face the axe and no decisions have yet been taken.

But a presentation given to staff – seen by *The Banbury Cake* – shows two remaining in the Banbury area and five in Oxford.

By Oliver Evans

The centres currently open in the Banbury area include: The Sunshine Centre, Edmunds Road; North Banbury Children's Centre, Hardwick School; Britannia Road Children's Centre, Grove Street, and East Street Centre, Calder Close.

The review also includes Butterfly Meadows in Tadmarton Road, Bloxham.

One Banbury centre worker – who did not want to be named – said: "The whole point of these centres is to stop families ending up in crisis. If you take them away then Banbury families will suffer."

Advice on issues like breastfeeding, work, benefits and parenting classes are among its key services, she said. "Our users tell us we have

made a positive difference to their lives. I am frightened for the future." Part-time Morrisons worker Ashley Simmons, 24, attends Britannia Road Children's Centre twice a week with her sons, Ethan, one, and Isaac, three months.

The Albert Street resident was among those who voiced concerns at a council meeting, called to debate its savings programme, at Banbury Town Hall on Monday.

She said: "It feels like there are so many cuts facing future generations. What is going to be left?"

"The staff at the centres are



County council leader Ian Hudspeth, above, speaks at the meeting as the crowd, left, listens avidly



## Scarecrow 'no joke'

POLICE officers were called out to rescue a man "stuck upside down in a field" – only to find it was a scarecrow. A member of the public reported a pair of legs sticking out of the ground near The Plough Pub, in Little Bourton, on the evening of Sunday, October 6.

Two officers found it was actually an entry in the village's scarecrow competition, created by 60-year-old pub landlord Sam Harrison. He said the officers were "not in the mood for laughing" and suggested he move the scarecrow – which was placed near the pub car park overlooking the main road.



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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

## InBRIEF

### Former pub is put up for sale

■ THE former Red Lion pub in High Street, Bloxham, is for sale. Fleurets is advertising the freehold and contents of the pub, which closed recently. Its advertisement adds there is a "development opportunity" at the site. The brewery has so far not commented on the plan.

### Historic site

■ A LOST battlefield from the Wars of the Roses has been discovered on the planned route of HS2, the London-to-Birmingham high speed rail link. The site of the battle of Edgecote, fought on July 26, 1469, is six miles north of Banbury and will now be given listed status by English Heritage. That will not give it statutory protection from development but the status will have to be considered in the planning process.

### 'Piracy' charge

■ CHIPPING Norton-based cameraman Phil Ball has been denied bail in court in Russia over piracy charges. He was among 30 Greenpeace protesters detained by Russian authorities during a protest at an Arctic Sea oil platform. They will now remain in prison until a hearing on November 24. Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that there should be an "outcry" over the detentions.

# Man, 20, convicted of sexual activity with a child

A 20-YEAR-OLD man has been convicted of having sexual activity with a child but cleared of indecent assault.

Tommy Fury, of The Beeches Caravan Park, in Old London Road, Chipping Norton, was found guilty of performing a sex act on a teenage boy in 2011.

On Friday, a jury in Oxford Crown Court took seven hours and 23 minutes to reach a majority verdict by a margin of ten to two.

The week-long trial heard Charles Ward-Jackson, prosecuting, say that the incident had taken place in Chipping Norton.

During his cross-examination, the barrister said to Fury: "You lay down next to him and put your hand down his trousers, didn't you?"

The defendant replied: "No, I didn't."

Mr Ward-Jackson also asked questions about text messages sent from his phone

to the complainant, which referred to the incident.

Fury said he did not know who sent the messages and that he sometimes left his phone charging unattended at a friend's house.

Mr Ward-Jackson said: "It's so much simpler than that – you sent them."

Fury replied: "No, I didn't send those text messages."

Mr Ward-Jackson added that some of

the texts seemed to be "blaming" his victim for the encounter.

He said another message threatened to tell people about the assault and was "blackmailing" the teenager.

Fury was cleared of an indecent assault on another teenage boy, who it was alleged he had kissed on the neck.

He was released on bail and will be sentenced at the Crown court next month.

### ■ Public debate is launched as axe hangs over council budget

# There's 'no guarantees' as £61m of cuts loom

By Freddie Whittaker

COUNTY council leader Ian Hudspeth this week launched a public consultation exercise to gauge reaction to £61m of cuts – but said he could not guarantee that he would be able to protect the services people may want saved.

County Hall could be forced to save up to £61m from its budget – on top of savings of £201m it has already made or is committed to.

A series of meetings with residents across the county was started in Banbury on Monday, with further meetings planned across the county.

Mr Hudspeth pledged to take all views that were raised on board, but he said people attending would have to accept that not all of their concerns would lead to the protection of services.

He said: "The bottom line is that we have to save £61m. It's an awful lot of money. We have done the easy-to-do stuff and now we're reaching some really challenging decisions.

"I want to be sure we get the best deal for the people of Oxfordshire."

The new cuts being rolled out come after Chancellor George Osborne announced plans to cut council budgets by ten per cent.

Council finance bosses will not know exactly how much needs to be saved until Mr Osborne releases his autumn statement, due on December 4.

But Mr Hudspeth says he wants everyone to be involved in the discussion about what they do.

Mr Hudspeth said: "It's always important to make sure we give the opportunity for residents to speak to us directly, so they can tell us what's important to them."

He said the council would not be giving people a list of services and asking them to select which ones they valued least.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for people to come and meet me and talk to me about what we're trying to do."

### Santa run date

ENTRIES have opened for this year's Santa Fun Run in aid of Addebury's Katharine House Hospice. The Sunday, December 8, event in Spiceball Park raised more than £70,000 in sponsorship cash over the previous three events. Entries are now sought by November 29 for the 4km or 1km run, £13 adults, £7 children or £35 for a family of four. The fee includes a Santa suit. Enter at khh.org.uk

### Pupils gaze into the future



SPACE was the place for these star-gazing youngsters as they visited a new school taking educational inspiration from the cosmos.

Banbury Academy's Leah Wheeler and Addison Staite-Loveridge, both 12, were among visitors to the Space Studio school in its grounds.

It will open in September 2014 and teach GCSEs and A-levels through the theme of space.

Year Eight pupil Leah said: "It looks exciting and really interesting."

The school's first year will cater for 75 students, from Years Ten to 12, with numbers rising to 300 pupils as year groups are added in subsequent years.

The school – a UK first – was given the go-ahead by the Department for Education in April and will take over the former Broughton building after a £1m refit.

Principal designate Mike Grocott said the UK would need 50,000 extra jobs to fuel the global space industry by 2020, adding: "Space is something that enthuses and excites."

Visiting professor Andy Newsam is pictured with Leah Wheeler, left, and Addison Staite-Loveridge

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# Inquest told of suicide after divorce verdict

A MAN aged 37 suffocated himself to death just a week after receiving confirmation of his divorce, an inquest heard.

Choudhry Tahir Imtiaz, of Evenlode, Banbury, was found dead in his bedroom on July 7 by firefighters.

An inquest at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard that his sister-in-law, Shabina Jawed, called the emergency services after his brother, Amer, found a note on Mr Imtiaz's door that read "Call 999".

A note was also discovered in Mr Imtiaz's room, in the house he shared with the couple, which read: "I, Tahir Imtiaz, blame no one for this action. No one is involved."

Oxfordshire assistant coroner Nicholas Graham recorded a verdict of suicide.

# Apology to school on unfair headline

ON October 10, the *Banbury Cake* published a report about the Ofsted inspection carried out at Orchard Fields Primary School and its judgment that it was inadequate, under the headline *Head complains after pupils are called racist*.

There was a strapline above the headline that said: *Ofsted finds 'serious weaknesses' and racism on return visit*.

John Christie, the chairman of Governors at the school, has complained about the headline and the story, saying it does not accurately reflect the comments by Inspector Ann Debono.

Ms Debono's comments included: "There are too many fixed-term exclusions and recorded incidents of racist behaviour, albeit by a minority of pupils," and "There are still too many incidents of racist name-calling, including amongst the youngest children."

The *Banbury Cake* accepts the headline and strapline do not reflect accurately the nature of Ms Debono's criticisms about racist incidents at the school and apologises for that. Her report clearly indicated problems over racist behaviour but she did not label any pupils as racist.

We are also happy to clarify that Ms Debono's criticism said the incidents were by a minority of pupils.

# Great bake-off with touch of pink



**Amy Lloyd with a giant cup cake, made by childcare students in aid of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity**

OX62681

A CAKE sale was awash with pink treats to raise cash for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

The students at the Banbury campus of Oxford and Cherwell Valley College sold their creations on Monday but it is not yet known how much was

raised. Childcare student Kia Sumner, 19, from Banbury, said: "We thought it would be a good idea to raise money for the charity."

"The cakes looked great and they appealed really well to customers."

Fellow childcare student Amy Lloyd said: "They were really decorative and pink."

Breakthrough Breast Cancer is encouraging fundraisers to organise their own Great Pink Bake Off during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

# ■ Emmerdale actor agrees to Christmas role TV soap star to switch on town's seasonal lights

**EMMERDALE** actor Mark Charnock will switch on Banbury's Christmas Lights next month, it has been announced.

The actor – who plays Marlon Dingle in the TV soap – will press the button during the ceremony on Sunday, November 24.

Thousands of local people are expected to pack into Bridge Street for the ceremony – supported by *The Banbury Cake* – on a stage in front of Banbury Town Hall.

The star, who has been in the ITV soap since 1996, will meet fans and sign autographs at the event, organised by Banbury Town Council.

Last year, *Coronation Street* stars Jack P. Shepherd and Ryan Thomas – who play David Platt and Jason Grimshaw – switched the lights on.

Council Christmas lights committee chairman Tina Wren said: "For many years people from Banbury and the surrounding area have been thrilled by TV celebrities coming to town to switch on the Christmas lights.

"We quickly discovered that soap characters were popular

By Oliver Evans

with people of all ages and we try every year to get a well-known face."

She said: "This year is no exception. Mark Charnock, who plays Marlon Dingle, is one of the most recognisable faces on TV and we are sure he will be a hit with Banbury soap fans."

"Banbury is one of the few towns to have a real celebrity to switch on the Christmas lights and stay within budget. It is something that makes our switch-on very special."

Joining the actor on stage will be the winner of a contest to find a "Champion of Champions" resident, who has devoted their life to helping others.

Send nominations, of no more than 300 words, by November 8 to ann.sewell@banbury.gov.uk or studio@banburysound.co.uk

Other sponsors include JLD Driver Training, Castle Quay shopping centre, Smiths of Bloxham, Right Results Project Management, JS Auctions, and Acreman's Arboriculture.



**Emmerdale actor Mark Charnock, who plays Marlon Dingle in the TV soap**

## InBRIEF

### Play park gets £120,000 update

■ WORK to re-surface and install new play equipment in the play area at Moorfields Park, Banbury, will begin on Monday. Banbury Town Council said the Grimsbury play area will be closed for about three weeks for the £120,000 revamp. General services committee chairman Colin Clarke said: "A great deal of thought has gone into the planning of this play area. The council seeks to keep play areas up to date and fit for purpose and this means making sure that playgrounds are modern and safe."

### Health forum

■ HEALTH managers will host a public forum in Banbury on Tuesday. The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – which makes NHS funding decisions – will host the event at South Bar House, South Bar Street, from 2pm to 4pm. To book a place, contact Richard O'Rourke on 01865 334625 or Richard.o'rourke@oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

### Parish meeting

■ THE next meeting of Adderbury Parish Council will be held on Tuesday at the Church House, High Street, at 7.30pm.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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**InBRIEF****Charity status for literary festival**

**CHIPPING Norton's literary festival has become a registered charity.**

The festival, which is now in its third year, also has a new chairman of the board of trustees – Martin Neild. Mr Neild was the chief executive of UK publishing giant Hodder & Stoughton.

He said: "The festival already punches well above its weight, and we are developing exciting plans for the future."

The next festival runs from April 24 until April 27, 2014.

Richard Dawkins, Julian Fellowes, and Fern Britton were among the celebrity authors at this year's festival, which brought in 3,000 book lovers.

The festival was also given a £500 community activities grant by West Oxfordshire District Council in August.

**Wounding case**

**A MAN and a teenager have appeared at Oxford Crown Court, charged with wounding.**

Garry Williams, 45 of Kingfisher Drive, Banbury, and a 17-year-old – who cannot be named for legal reasons – are accused of an attack on Shane Bolton in Banbury on September 30.

They did not enter pleas during an appearance at Oxford Crown Court and were remanded in custody.

Both will appear again for a plea and case management hearing on December 20.

# The 'dangers' of NHS cuts New chief in safety warning

By Oliver Evans

**PATIENT safety must not be compromised by cuts to NHS and social care budgets, the new chairman of Oxfordshire's official care watchdog has said.**

Larry Sanders warned of the "horrors" of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust scandal – where up to 1,200 patients died – as he became the first chairman of Healthwatch.

The watchdog, which was set up this year to replace the Oxfordshire Local Involvement Network – has been established as what he calls "unprecedented" cuts are made to services.

Oxfordshire County Council – which runs social services and spends about £900m each year – last month announced it would have to make £60m savings from 2014 to 2018 on top of the £74m already planned

The NHS faces a £20bn "savings challenge" and costs would have to be cut by about five per cent at county hospitals by Oxford Hospitals NHS Trust by 2018.

All this comes after one of the biggest reorganisations of the NHS, the transfer of major funding decisions from managers to a GP-led organisation, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Mr Sanders, 78, said: "Budgets are not our problem. We are not in charge of budgets. Our problem is what is happening on the ground.

"Mid Staffs can happen elsewhere. They had to cut £10m out of their budget and the only way they did that was to get rid of nurses. They did that and ended up with a horror."

He said: "You can't get anybody fed or cleaned by an empty chair."

The watchdog function was once carried out by Community Health Councils, of which Mr Sanders was a county member from 1996 until their abolition for LInks in 2003.

This severed the link between individual complaints – which CHCs handled – and general issues, a link Mr Sanders wants to restore by working closely with the advocacy charity, SEAP.

He said of his work with the CHC: "It meant we knew about every complaint. It meant we were seeing the bigger picture. We want to work with SEAP to analyse the patterns that emerge."

He said LInks "diluted" the work of CHCs by cutting budgets and, while working with senior managers on wider issues was important, contact with patients was key.

He said: "If we go out, find people and find out what is really happening, then that will have to be responded to."

The New Yorker's love of the NHS stems from his arrival in England in 1968, to take a social care course.

He said: "I had to justify the reason for cutting my salary down by a third. It was to get a free health service and free higher education.

"The NHS is crucial for a civilised life here. If we screw up the NHS, it would be a very unpleasant place to live. I have seen what happens in America."

As former Green Party leader on the county council, he



Pupils from a host of primary schools in Banbury, busy making hanging baskets – with the help of the town's park rangers

## Planting seeds to help produce brighter future

**SCHOOLS across Banbury will be brighter this winter, thanks to the gardening efforts of pupils.**

More than 200 children from seven schools – Hardwick, Orchard Fields, The Grange, Bishop Loveday, Dashwood, Hillview, and Harriers – visited the community garden in People's Park to plant baskets with pansies, salvias and a variety of herbs.

The Banbury In Bloom project has seen park rangers give youngsters valuable lessons in horticulture.

**They were taught how to make and design hanging baskets, care and feed plants.**

Nick Harrison, chairman of the Banbury In Bloom working party, said: "Every year we invite children to make hanging baskets, which they take back to their schools.

"The baskets become colourful and attractive features of the school buildings during the autumn, winter, and spring months.

"The children were extremely enthusiastic

and were keen to get their hands dirty. They learned things that they will find useful later on in life."

In one session, 28 pupils from The Grange School took part.

Key Stage Two co-ordinator Sarah Dixey said: "The hanging baskets project is a lovely way to promote cross-curricular learning. It is science, outdoor education, and eco-friendly.

"The baskets also make the school's outdoor environment a lot nicer."

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Healthwatch chief Larry Saunders

represented East Oxford from 2005 to 2013. Mr Sanders is also a member of Oxford Keep Our NHS Public, which opposes NHS cash going to private firms.

Yet he stressed his left-leaning political views would not interfere, adding: "If a private provider is doing a good job, I will be happy to report that – even though I think there are risks."

In 2008, 26,000 tickets were issued. This rose to 33,000 last year

# Cameras click up more speed fines

THE number of speed camera tickets has rocketed since 2008, figures obtained by the Banbury Cake show.

Some 33,613 were handed to motorists last year compared to 26,285 in 2008, a rise of 28 per cent.

Police said this brought in an estimated £728,760 last year compared to £650,160 in 2008. Cash goes to The Treasury.

Debate has raged about the value of the cameras in improving safety on county roads.

All 65 were switched off in August 2010 because of Government funding cuts but were switched back on eight months later.

During that time 18 people were killed in smashes compared with 12 deaths in the same period the year before, the first rise in four years.

Fatal collisions fell from 42 in 2008 to 30, 41, 26 and 28 in the following years. Some 63 died in 2000.

Non-fatal but serious smashes went from 301 in 2008 to 315, 354, 329 and 279 in subsequent years. This was 453 in 2000.

Chief Inspector Henry Parsons, of Thames Valley Police's joint roads policing unit, said: "This figure is still too high, each one representing real people needlessly dying and the police's role is to try and prevent these hideous events occurring."

Anyone caught speeding is sent a notice of intended prosecution which carries three points and a £100 fine.

Points are waived if drivers attend a course, for those who have not attended one with a participating force in the last three years.

They must also have been caught "at or just above" the 35mph speed limit threshold in a 30mph zone.

Those driving at 50mph or above go to court, where they can be fined up to £2,500 and given up to six points.

Chief Insp Parsons said: "Where appropriate we offer an educational alternative to prosecution."

Road safety team leader at Oxfordshire County Council Mandy Rigault said: "We are committed to reducing the number of people killed and

By Katriona Ormiston

injured in road accidents and improving conditions for all road users, including vulnerable groups such as pedestrians and cyclists.

"People observing speed limits can help us to achieve this."

"We urge people to be aware of the speed they are driving at as the higher the speed they are travelling at, the less time they have to react to an incident."

Among those caught last year was plumber Kevin Wallington.

Mr Wallington, caught doing 30mph in his 20mph street, said: "They are just trying to get revenue off people."

"They shouldn't be monitoring a 20mph hill with ten officers when they could be catching pickpockets in Oxford, or burglars and keeping law and order."

"They are raking it in like we are some kind of fat cash cow. They will be taxing us for breathing fresh air soon."

He said: "It actually takes your concentration away from the road if you are looking at the speed dial to make sure you are below 20."

Taxi driver Peter Horsley said: "In some ways I think it is a revenue generator particularly because sometimes the signs are very small."

"If you're not from this area and the speed limit suddenly changes you are going to get done."

But Mark McArthur-Christie, director of policy for motorcycling think-tank Two Wheels Better, said: "Cameras are large tall yellow boxes. If you can't see them, you shouldn't be driving."

He said: "You don't drive to the limit you drive to the road conditions and the speed limits now change every mile and a half."

Speeding is "not an issue in the huge majority of crashes" he said.

"Cameras are a superb political invention for local politicians to give the impression they are doing something when in fact they are not actually achieving anything."



LEFT: Chief Inspector Henry Parsons  
BELOW: Roads officer Sergeant Bryan Smith

## Roads officer says dealing with death was part of his job

A ROADS policing officer's day can involve anything from escorting royalty to investigating a five car pile-up.

But Sgt Bryan Smith, a team supervisor at the force's roads policing base, said dealing with death was a part of the job.

He said: "We know it is our job, so we know we are expected to deal with things and everyone has their own coping strategies.

"Most roads policing officers become quite impassioned about road safety as a result of what they see."

The officer said it was frustrating to see drivers ignoring advice on seatbelts

and mobile phones.

He said: "I don't think you realise the impact of it until you are in this department and you constantly see people with issues that could have been avoided."

"It is frustrating that the message does not seem to be getting home – despite the vast amount of prevention work we do."

He said officers always found it hard delivering the bad news to the relatives of someone who had died in a road accident.

But he said: "If it was the result of a distraction or from not wearing a seatbelt – things that are absolutely avoidable – it makes it even worse."

## Roads death toll falling 'year-on-year'

STATISTICS show road deaths in the county are falling year-on-year.

There were 41 deaths on Oxfordshire roads in 2010. Last year there were 17 and there have been nine so far this year.

Inspector Paul Winks, head of the road death investigation team, put the fall down

to improvements in car safety, better road design, and the unit's prevention work.

But he said people were still dying unnecessarily, adding: "We are still seeing far too many deaths as a result of people not wearing a seatbelt."

The investigation team look into cases

where people have died and where someone may need to be prosecuted. Insp Winks said about half of road deaths led to a prosecution.

He also said almost all road accidents were down to human error, rather than vehicle defects.

## InBRIEF

### Attack-charge man gets bail

A MAN has denied a robbery and a serious assault in Banbury. Qais Ahmed, of Withycombe Drive, Banbury, is accused of committing the crimes on November 23 last year. It is alleged he attacked Glen Briggs and stole a mobile phone and cash. Ahmed entered not guilty pleas to both charges when he appeared before Oxford Crown Court. He was released on bail, to appear again in the two weeks beginning January 6 for a trial.

### New manager

GILL Faure has been appointed general manager at Horton NHS Treatment Centre. The centre opened in 2006 as a new purpose-built facility offering orthopaedic procedures in Banbury and has been providing NHS services under the Government's Patient Choice programme.

### Police talk

THAMES Valley Police Chief Constable Sara Thornton will speak about the force's work in the Cherwell District Council area at a public meeting next week. She will address Monday's full council meeting, to be held at Bodicote House, White Post Road, Bodicote, at 6.30pm. The public can attend.

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■ Unfair, say critics as hospital directors pocket £15k each

# Call for payback of executives' bonuses



## Manager's pay: Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

2012/13 Salary	2011/12 Salary	2012/13 bonus	2011/12 bonus
Sir Jonathan Michael, chief executive £215,000 - £220,000	£215,000 - £220,000	£40,000 - £45,000	£30,000 - £35,000
Mark Mansfield, director of finance and procurement £140,000 - £145,000	£140,000 - £145,000	£10,000 - £15,000	£10,000 - £15,000
Elaine Strachan-Hall, chief nurse £110,000 - £115,000	£105,000 - £110,000	£10,000 - £15,000	£5,000 - £10,000
Andrew Stevens, director of planning and information £110,000 - £115,000	£110,000 - £115,000	£10,000 - £15,000	£5,000 - £10,000
Paul Brennan, director of clinical services £140,000 - £145,000	£140,000 - £145,000	£10,000 - £15,000	£5,000 - £10,000
Sue Donaldson, director of human resources £105,000 - £110,000	£100,000 - £105,000	£5,000 - £10,000	£5,000 - £10,000
Mark Trumper, director of development and the estate £125,000 - £130,000	£115,000 - £120,000	£10,000 - £15,000	Appointed May 2011
Eileen Walsh, director of assurance £120,000 - £125,000	£105,000 - £110,000	£10,000 - £15,000	Appointed May 2011
Prof Edward Baker, medical director*			
Dame Fiona Caldicott, chairman £20,000 - £25,000	£160,000 - £165,000	N/A	N/A
Geoffrey Salt, non-executive director £5,000 - £10,000	£20,000 - £25,000	N/A	N/A
Alistair Cameron, non-executive director £5,000 - £10,000	£105,000 - £110,000	N/A	N/A
Professor Sir John Bell, non-executive director £5,000 - £10,000	£110,000 - £115,000	N/A	N/A
Anne Tutt, non-executive director £5,000 - £10,000	£105,000 - £110,000	N/A	N/A
Peter Ward, non-executive director £5,000 - £10,000	£110,000 - £115,000	N/A	N/A
Chris Goad, non-executive director £5,000 - £10,000	£105,000 - £110,000	N/A	N/A
	£0 - £5,000	N/A	N/A

\*Paid on a nationally determined consultant contract and received bonus for achieving clinical excellence

**BIGGER** bonuses handed out to hospital executives have been labelled "absolutely crazy" in the midst of planned cutbacks by the organisation.

Bonus payments totalling £119,243 were paid to eight directors at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust last year – an increase of 61 per cent on the £74,067 given out the year before.

It comes as the trust moves to save £160m over four years, including £2.5m in job cuts.

The trust said the performance-related payments were in line with other trusts and were paid only if results were achieved.

But critics have urged the directors to give the cash back as a "gesture" to struggling staff.

An Oxfordshire nurse, who asked not to be named, said: "It is not fair. Nurses are working too hard and not getting paid enough."

By Tom Jennings

Jacquie Pearce-Gervis, chairman of Oxfordshire-based watchdog Patient Voice, said: "When cuts are being made it seems absolutely crazy to give them these payments.

"They should forego their bonuses. That would be a nice gesture."

Royston Sugden, a carpenter for the trust, said the payments were "a kick in the teeth".

Victoria Couling, of the Royal College of Nurses said it would send a "powerful message" if managers decided to give up their bonuses.

Trust directors can expect the bonuses as part of their salaries unless they fail to meet targets. Last year they lost 12.5 per cent from the bonus pot because bed blocking and A&E waiting times targets were missed.

While all staff were on a pay freeze last year, those earning

less than £21,000 were given a one-off payment of £250 in April last year. All employees received a one per cent rise this year.

Executives are not subject to the same contracts as most NHS staff and so are not subject to the freeze. Last year the 16 executives' pay totalled £1.29m and two of them received pay rises of at least £5,000.

The figure also rose from £1.27m the year before – 2011/12 – because two directors were appointed in May 2011 and were therefore not paid a full year's salary.

When asked for details of the targets the directors met for their bonuses, the trust referred to: "delivering compassionate excellence", "delivering better value healthcare" and "becoming a resilient, flexible and successful organisation".

The trust was unable to give details of bonus and salary payments for each director or explain why two directors were given pay rises.

## Trust boss defends the big bonuses

OUHT chairman Dame Fiona Caldicott defended the bonus payments.

She said: "Oxford University Hospitals is one of the largest trusts in the country with 11,000 staff and an annual turnover of more than £822m.

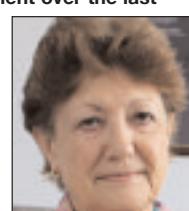
"The performance-related payments to the executive directors reflect the level of performance achieved by these individuals set within a challenging agenda of improvement over the last three years.

"The total salaries of our executive directors, including the entire pay-related performance, if awarded, are in line with benchmark salaries for similar NHS trusts.

"We take independent HR advice on good practice in setting terms and conditions in the public sector, including making comparisons with salaries in NHS trusts of a similar scale to ours.

"We are not out of line. We choose to give part of the directors' remuneration as pay-related performance in order to link pay to performance.

"The executive directors have performed extremely well during a period of unprecedented change in the NHS, and the performance-related payments reflect the achievement of the team's corporate objectives."



Dame Fiona Caldicott



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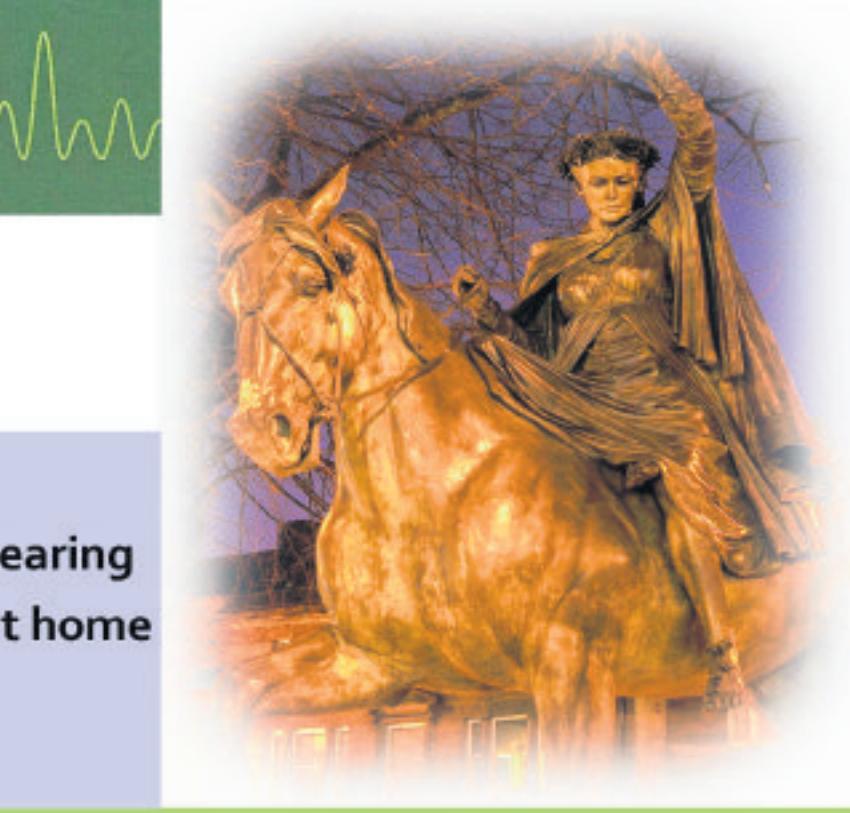
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# New figures reveal growing number of teenage girls are overdosing Facing perils of drinks, drugs

**THERE has been a big rise in the number of young girls overdosing on drink and drugs, new figures reveal.**

Cut-price alcohol and easy access to legal highs have been blamed for the rise of just under 20 per cent in two years, which has seen 166 girls under 18 and 75 boys under 18 going to hospital.

In 2012/13, there were 241 underage admissions for drug and alcohol overdoses, one more than in 2011/12, and 39 more than in 2010/11.

Charities blame a mixture of vulnerability, legal highs freely available on the Internet and cheap alcohol.

Oxfordshire Addaction, a young person's drug and alcohol charity, has called on ministers to act.

The group said a minimum price for alcohol was vital plus more research into the booming legal highs market.

Spokesman Elliot Elam said: "These statistics are certainly high and we

**By Mark Taylor**

find a lot of young women are being admitted to hospital because of alcohol and drugs.

"One major factor is that alcohol is more available and affordable than ever before.

"Young women are drinking far more and that can often lead to A&E.

"With drugs, we would like ministers to invest in services such as ours that can deal with legal highs.

"Little is known about these substances including how they affect people who have taken other drugs or who have been drinking."

Oxfordshire hospitals admit more than two young girls a week for drink- or drug-related mishaps.

Girls under 18 are three times more likely than boys to end up in hospital after overdosing.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that in 2012/13, Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital admitted 122 girls for drink and drug mishaps compared with 57 boys.

At the Horton General, Banbury, in 2012/13, there were 44 girls admitted for overdosing but just 18 boys.

Girls between 15 and 17 are most likely to go to hospital.

Oxfordshire MP Nicola Blackwood has campaigned for greater awareness of the problems that girls face.

She said: "Drug and alcohol abuse can be an indicator of an underlying problem like bullying at school, abuse at home or even sexual exploitation.

"Pushing boundaries is a part of growing up, but parents, schools and health services need to get to the bottom of why these numbers are increasing.

"Solutions to limit the supply of drugs and alcohol by enforcement will help, but you also need intervention where drug or alcohol abuse is secondary to a deeper issue."

Eric Appleby, of Alcohol Concern, added: "We can start by having a minimum unit price and restricting alcohol advertising."



**New figures reveal a worrying rise in the number of young girls overdosing on drink and drugs**

## Great Ideas For Christmas for Family & Friends



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**Pets**



**Work Mates**



**Grandad**



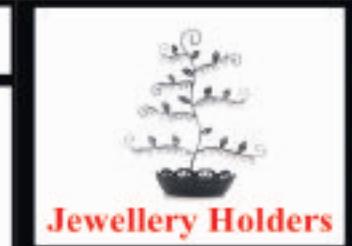
**Girlfriends**



**Grandma**



**Cushions**



**Sister**



**Gifts for Men**

**InBRIEF****Protest over solar scheme**

■ RESIDENTS in Epwell and Shutford are opposed to plans for a 3.7-hectare solar farm at Shutford.

They say the solar panels would have a visual impact on the countryside, cause glint and glare, potential flooding – because the site is on a hillside – and have an adverse impact on wildlife.

Novus Solar Developments has applied for planning approval to install the solar panels and associated equipment at Shutford Grounds Farm, Epwell Road, Shutford. The site is currently used for agriculture.

**Bowing out**

■ AFTER 12 years of leading the successful Deddington Farmers' Market, chairman Geoff Todd has stepped down.

One of his final duties was to hand out cheques totalling nearly £5,000 to a string of groups including 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade, 1st Deddington Cubs and Scouts Group, 1st Deddington Guides, Banbury Food Bank, Deddington and District Youth Club, Deddington Art Group, Deddington Beeches Bowls Club.

Profits from the market are donated to community organisations. Stephen Waterman has taken on the role of market chairman.

# £8,000 claimed illegally Guilt of a benefits fraudster

A BENEFIT fraudster has been ordered to carry out unpaid work after he admitted overclaiming more than £8,000.

Following an investigation by Cherwell District Council, Robert Hope, of Gibbs Road, Banbury, appeared at Banbury Magistrates Court.

He was sentenced after admitting five counts of knowingly failing to disclose changes in circumstances and making false statements that affected his claims to the council.

The 62-year-old had obtained £8,358.05 in housing and council tax benefits that he was not entitled to.

He was sentenced to 150 hours unpaid work, to be completed within 12 months, and ordered to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and court costs of £250.

Hope has also been ordered to

By Joe Nimmo

repay the money to the council.

Ken Atack, Cherwell District Council's finance chief, said: "The more agencies work together and pool their information, the harder it is for criminals to cover up benefit fraud – and this is a good example."

"The council was alerted to Mr Hope's undeclared works pension through the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative, which matches data held on various computer systems.

"The data highlighted that Mr Hope had an undeclared civil service pension.

"He admitted to having this during an interview under caution. But investigators then established that Mr Hope had a further pension with British Airways, which he also hadn't declared."



Luke and Gemma Froude

## Tragic parents in charity plea

THE people of Banbury are being urged to donate prizes to help a couple raise cash for the Support for the Sick Newborn and their Parents charity.

Luke and Gemma Froude plan to host their fourth "Finnley Day" at Banbury Town Hall, on February 1, 2014, in memory of their baby son, Finnley, who was born 12 weeks premature in February 2010. The tiny tot tragically died a few

months after suffering complications with his heart.

So far, the couple, from Appleby Close, Banbury, have raised £46,000 in his memory.

The pair need help with raffle prizes, stalls and volunteers. For more information email [Finnleyfroude@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Finnleyfroude@hotmail.co.uk) or call Mr Froude on 0771 771062.

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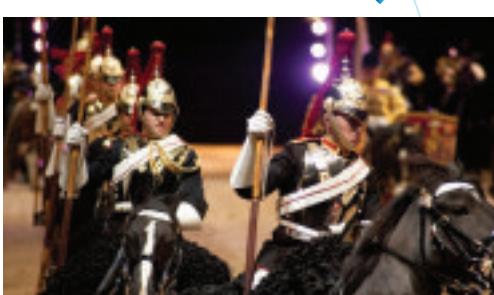
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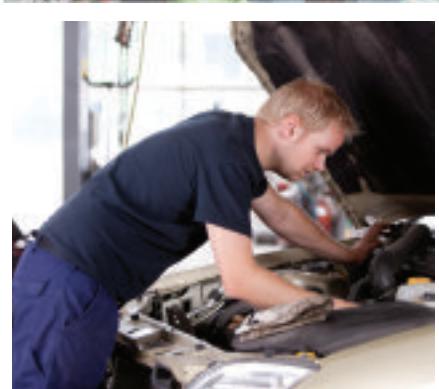
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We are currently experiencing a few difficulties with our workshop and is something currently beyond our control. We would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused to our very valued customers and are currently looking for new premises.

We will be closed for this week and reopening in what

will be hopefully a better and bigger place for not only our customers to enjoy but also where our staff can venture out and keep all of you happy with a quick in and out service ensuring that all vehicles are well maintained and continue the level of service you are all accustomed to.

We apologize for any delays and mishaps that you have experienced in this past week and would like to reiterate that this has not been done intentionally- hopefully on our new site we would like to welcome you back with a complimentary tea or coffee which I know our regulars will be very happy about... maybe even a biscuit!

On a last note we are a very reliable and friendly

company (which our regulars would happily attest to) and would like to ensure everyone that this will NOT affect the business and all will resume as soon as possible. In the interim we would like to thank our very loyal friends and customers who have made us who we are today and are eternally grateful.

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# CakeLeisure

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## Club prepares to have them rolling in the aisles . . .

By Sam McGregor

Banbury's Mill Theatre opens its doors this weekend to a string of comedians getting laughs on the London circuit.

Compere Kevin Precious will be introducing three acts during the Mill's Barnstormer's Comedy night, at the Spiceball Park venue, on Saturday, from 8pm.

The line-up includes Phil Butler, who was described by one reviewer as "Without doubt, one of the most exciting and original finds in comedy in recent years".

Phil served his entertainment apprenticeship at holiday parks, pier shows, pantomime's and aboard cruise ships.

Multi-talented Phil used to take part in a string of shows, often finding himself playing the comic lead.

So, in 2001, he joined the comedy circuit. Now he regularly performs at all the major comedy clubs around the UK.

He has also flown out to entertain the troops in Iraq and more recently Afghanistan, and appeared on TV shows including the BBC's *Hotel Babylon* and *The Des O'Connor Show*.

Also appearing on stage is Scottish comedian Alan Francis, who first came to the notice of comedy audiences when he won



LEFT: Comic Steve Day

RIGHT:  
Compere  
Kevin  
Precious



Channel 4's *So You Think You're Funny* Award in 1991. Since then, his reputation has grown as a writer, stand-up and actor.

He appeared in the award-winning play *Penetrator*, and in 1995 co-wrote and co-starred in *Jeffrey Dahmer is Unwell* at the

Edinburgh Festival.

On TV he continues to work as a writer/performer on Alistair McGowan's *Big Impression*, *Spy TV*, and worked with big-name stars, including Alan Davies, Alan Partridge and Alexei Sayle.

And the final act is Steve Day, who makes light of dealing with the dilemmas of being a deaf man in a hearing world.

His stories of multiple children, wearing a suit and the problems caused by not knowing how words are pronounced, will have audiences in raptures, and his uplifting tales of overcoming the obstacles in his path will leave crowds feeling inspired.

Steve is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's *You and Yours*, and was a staff writer on Radio 2's long-running show, *The News Huddlines*. He has also and has appeared on numerous TV shows, including Channel 4's *Natural Born Talent* and Sky's *Abnormally Funny People*.

Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the door. Box office: 01295 279002.



Former holiday park entertainer Phil Butler, who now turns his hand to stand-up comedy

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# It's a machete - but with a dull edge to the blade

**MACHETE KILLS** (15, 108 mins) Action/Comedy/Sci-Fi. Danny Trejo, Michelle Rodriguez, Sofia Vergara, Amber Heard, Antonio Banderas, Cuba Gooding Jr, Demian Bichir, Charlie Sheen, Vanessa Hudgens, Jessica Alba, Lady Gaga, Mel Gibson. Director: Robert Rodriguez.

Lady Gaga makes her big screen acting debut in *Machete Kills* and the chameleonic pop vixen is a perfect fit for Robert Rodriguez's blood-soaked sequel. Not only is the film festooned with scantily-clad femmes in revealing costumes but Kyle Ward's script repeatedly looks for shock value in every outlandish set-up.

Consequently, one henchman is sucked into the blades of a helicopter by his own intestines and another group of underlings is eviscerated into glistening entrails by the outboard motor of an airborne speedboat.

Anything can, and does, happen in Rodriguez's anarchic caper, including a ludicrous sci-fi finale recycled from late 1970s James Bond. Unfortunately, all of the gratuitous bloodshed and high-velocity hijinks are dull and repetitive.

*Machete Kills* puts the tat in exploitation, the frankenword coined by writer-director Rodriguez to encapsulate his Latin-flavoured homage to exploitation films of the 1970s and 1980s.

US President Rathcock (Charlie Sheen) grants Mexican superspy Machete Cortez (Danny Trejo) citizenship in exchange for hunting

down an emotionally unstable terrorist called Marcos Mendez (Demian Bichir), who intends to launch a stolen nuclear missile into the beating heart of Washington D.C.

Machete's assigned handler is a sassy undercover agent, who passes herself off as a busty beauty queen called Miss San Antonio (Amber Heard).

"Try not to be distracted by the cleavage and hairspray. It's part of the cover," she coos.

Machete wields his namesake without mercy as he cuts a swathe through Mendez's henchmen, unmasking the mastermind of the diabolical plot: an arms manufacturer called Luther Voz (Mel Gibson), who has a compelling reason for unleashing "gargantuan, irrevocable anarchy".

Thankfully, Machete can always rely on his feisty sidekick with an eye patch, Luz (Michelle Rodriguez), and her underground band of brothers for back-up.

Complicating matters, an elusive assassin called La Camaleon (Lady Gaga) and a vengeful brothel madam (Sofia Vergara) are also on Machete's trail, both intent on hunting down the superspy.

Bookended by previews of a third chapter entitled *Machete Kills Again... In Space!*, Rodriguez's film outstays its welcome well before Gibson enters the fray as a deranged Blofeld-style villain intent on establishing a new world order.

Trejo barely registers emotion, even rage, as he slices, dices and decapitates the supporting cast



while Antonio Banderas and Cuba Gooding Jr enjoy brief cameos.

Jokes fall flat apart from one throwaway flourish: obscuring a sex scene with 3D blurring and asking the audience to Put On Your Glasses via a flashing onscreen caption, even though no one has a pair of plastic specs.

The second hour of *Machete Kills* also passes in a blur but that's a result of the audience drifting in and out of bored consciousness rather than visual trickery.

## Cake What's on

### Music

**FRIDAY:** St Mary's Church, Mill Lane, Adderbury: Adderbury and Milton branch of The Royal British Legion presents a concert by The Royal Leamington Spa Branch The Royal Naval Association Male Voice Choir. All proceeds to the National Poppy Appeal. 7.30pm. £5. Tickets at Adderbury Stores, High Street and on the door. 01295 810368.

### The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Singer-songwriters Chris While and Julie Matthews, former Albion Band stalwarts. £15, concession £12. 8pm. 01295 279002.  
**SATURDAY:** Methodist Church, Marlborough Road, Banbury: From Broadway To Banbury. Banbury Operatic Society concert in aid of Katherine House Hospice. Features music and songs from Broadway and West End musicals. Fri-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm. £10. Tickets from Anker and Partner Estate Agents, 31-32 High Street, Banbury. 07880 713472.

Sunday 20/10/2013

**Blue Boar, Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton:** Mike Maddams, with a selection of well-known covers. Free. 5-8pm. 01608 643525.

### Theatre

#### The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Oct 19, *The Three Billy Pigs*. A mash-up of two classic fairy tales. Puppets, music and a fun eco-message. Presented by Noisy Oyster. £6, family ticket £20. 11.30am and 2.30pm.

Oct 19, Barnstormers Comedy Club. Featuring three top acts. £12/£11 adv, £14/£13 door. 8pm.

Oct 23, *Woyzeck*, an adaptation based on the play by Georg Buchner. 7.30pm. "Innocent there is a mark on you!" Set against WWI, this is a startling depiction of a soldier plagued by visions of the apocalypse and plunged into homicidal lunacy. It's a world that is disturbingly atmospheric, darkly comic and heartbreakingly poignant. Suitable for 14yrs and older. £12, £10 concession. 7.30pm.

Oct 19 (Miller's bar), Spanish night featuring group Amor Flamenco. Doors 7.30pm, show 8pm. Social dancing afterwards. Charity fundraising night. £15, under-12s £7.

Box office: 01295 279002.

#### The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

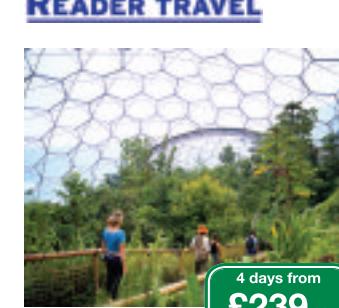
Oct 17, *Monkey Bars*. Children were asked to talk about their lives. Here, their words are spoken by adults. Funny, with a revelatory insight. £14, concession £12, schools £8.50. 7.45pm.

Oct 18, Cotswood comedy club. James Acaster performs stand-up. £12. 7.45pm.

Oct 19, *Yumm!* A dance theatre show that celebrates all that is messy at meal times! Crunchy, sweet, tart, gooey, runny, sour, thick, yummy! A highly imaginative production where tables can dance; plates spin; and the audience have a chance to contribute to the dinner time rituals! 11.30am, 2.30pm. £8.50 (plus £1 booking fee per ticket). Box office: 01608 642350.

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### Price includes

- Return coach travel from the local area
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 [www.newmarket.travel/oxs](http://www.newmarket.travel/oxs)

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A four night midweek break!  
Departs 28 Apr & 1 Sep 2014

One of the UK's most varied and scenic counties, with a glorious coastline, interesting cities, quaint villages and stunning scenery, a holiday in Yorkshire is always memorable! And this one is no exception! You'll stay in the seaside resort of Scarborough and enjoy two full day included excursions.

### Price includes

- Coach travel throughout
- Four nights' accommodation in the Clifton Hotel, Scarborough
- Full English breakfasts and three course evening meals
- Visits to York and Whitby
- A tour of the Yorkshire Moors
- The services of a Tour Manager

# CakeSport

[banburycake.co.uk/sport](http://banburycake.co.uk/sport)

# Late score sinks

## Latest tables

CALOR LEAGUE						
Premier Division						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
H Hempstd Tn	11	10	0	1	37	5 30
Chesham Utd	12	9	1	2	30	12 28
Bideford	11	6	5	0	25	10 23
Poole Tn	11	6	4	1	22	17 22
Stourbridge	11	7	0	4	25	14 21
Cambridge C	11	6	3	2	17	10 21
Arlessey Tn	11	6	2	3	20	15 20
Hungerford Tn	11	6	1	4	18	11 19
<b>Banbury Utd</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20 19</b>
St Albans City	11	5	2	4	23	16 17
Hitchin Tn	11	4	3	4	15	11 15
Weymouth	10	4	3	3	16	13 15
Corby Tn	11	4	2	5	13	21 14
Redditch Utd	12	4	1	7	16	35 13
Burnham	10	3	3	4	15	15 12
Chippenham Tn	12	4	0	8	17	23 12
Frome Tn	11	3	3	5	12	20 12
Truro City	12	3	3	6	16	27 12
Bedford Tn	12	3	3	6	20	34 12
Biggleswade Tn	10	2	5	3	14	13 11
St Neots Tn	11	3	0	8	12	18 9
*Hinckley Utd	10	1	3	6	9	20 6
AFC Totton	10	2	0	8	14	29 6
Bashley	10	0	2	8	8	26 2

\* points deducted

# Banbury

A GOAL three minutes from time condemned Banbury United to defeat in Saturday's Calor League Premier Division clash.

Banbury had gone in front just before the hour mark through Kynan Isaac, but two goals in the last 15 minutes gave the Cornish side all three points.

United had given debuts to two players who signed just before the game. Playing in the centre of midfield was ex-Spurs trainee Takura Mtandari, while wide midfield was Nathan Mukuna who started at

**Banbury Utd**  
(Isaac 57)

**1**

**Truro City**  
(Slateford 78, Eddy 87)

**2**

**Southend.** There was just one opportunity for Banbury before the interval when Adeyinka Talabi broke clear, but his lob went well wide.

The visitors started the second half the brighter, but Banbury took the lead in the 57th minute when Isaac got on the end of a long ball from keeper Leigh Bedwell and finished with aplomb.

Truro fought back, equalising on 78 minutes when Neil Slateford fired home from 12 yards.

The winner came when Liam Eddy skipped into the penalty area and shot home from a tight angle, before Tanasheh Abrahams almost equalised for Banbury right at the death.

**Banbury Utd:** Bedwell, Cray, Martin, Morgan, Mbamarah, Ryan, Lawless, Mtandari, Simpson (Talabi 14), Isaac, Mukuna (Abrahams 60). Subs not used: Dumbleton, McNulty, Fraser-Allen.

Attendance: 350.



Banbury's goalscorer Kynan Isaac

## STARS with Claire Petulengro



Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

### ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

You're still feeling from the full moon and the mess it's left for you to clean up. Try to stick to group arrangements you've made as they're forecast to give you the support you need to get through a somewhat challenging but rewarding week ahead. You've changed, and can only continue to be, toxic. This would be a really good month to think about taking up something purely for you. Ring now so I can guide you.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Family are not making your life easy to live lately, are they Tauruses?

I'm pleased to say that this week you turn a corner and you find ways to talk to them and to you which will give both something to build on. Don't opt out of party or celebration plans as someone you're going to want to see is likely to be there. Give me a ring to hear what I know about your future.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Friend or foe, what do you have around you at the moment Gemini?

It's not too easy to work out who is who, is it? By the end of this week you'll be able to see clearly who you can trust and who is out to get the better of you. Mercury helps you make money from an old skill. Don't be afraid to call up old contacts. Give me a call now. I have news which is sure to make you smile.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Mars, the planet of change and unpredictability, promises an exciting week but one which you may not be able to fully control. The Sun helps you to finish the things you've started and tie up all those loose ends which made for such a frustrating beginning to the month. New friends you make this week have the potential to be so much more. Ring now so I can show you your future.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Your ruling planet the Sun makes you the centre of attention and if ever you wanted to make new friends and explore new avenues then this is the week to do so. Foreign links prove interesting but expensive. Make sure you know what you have to put out or invest in order to be part of what's going on. Give me a call now to hear which sign is sorry for their recent words and actions.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Showing others your experience of life can leave you feeling in charge of life again. It can also help you realise what you want the next chapter of your life to be like. Don't get involved in other peoples' relationships or you could end up being blamed for what is going wrong between them. Phone me now to hear why you're more psychic than usual during October.

### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Try to let other people tell their own secrets rather than you exposing them. If not, you could end up making an enemy out of someone you used to call a friend. Stop letting the past interfere with your present. It's time to put a lid on what was, and can only continue to be, toxic. This would be a really good month to think about taking up something purely for you. Ring now so I can guide you.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

You're getting over some shock news, but it's good news if

you'd step back and look at the bigger picture. Some astrologers would say you're in shock, and that's why you're not smiling yet, but you will by the end of this week when you see what a knock-on effect this will have on the life of your close ones. Give me a call now to hear which sign is taking advantage of your giving nature.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21**

If you know you have friends who use you then why haven't you but a distance between you Sagittarius? Life is too short to spend it with people who make you unhappy. News you hear by Thursday gives you reason to plan a major change or move in your life. If you weren't in the driving seat before, you certainly will now. Call me so I can tell you the whole story.

**CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19**

Facing your personal fears and worries can help to make you a stronger person. It can also help you to get back on good terms with your family and others ones who have found it impossible to communicate with you of late. News of a change in someone's personal circumstances gives you reason to re-think your personal situation. Phone now to better understand your stars.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

You may feel like you're on borrowed time and have to rush but, really, you don't have to Aquarius. It would be far better for you to take things at a pace you feel comfortable with so you can show yourself off to the best of your abilities. Money meetings go well, but go even better if arranged for Friday. Phone now so I can explain how to make the most of this week's line up.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20**

Even people who love one another experience problems with each other. Don't brush your worries under the carpet just to keep the peace as it will only end up making things escalate at the end of the month. Saturn helps you get home and vehicle matters under better control. Don't be convinced to pay out more than you have to. Ring now to work out what and who you need from your future.

**Capricorn Dec 22-Jan 19**

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## In Memoriam

**WALTON**  
Magdalen Mary (Midge)  
20th October 2008  
Forever in our hearts you will always  
stay.  
Loved and remembered everyday.

Still miss you mum.

Love you loads Janet, Dee and  
Peter and Grandchildren

xxxx



## GEOFF HERITAGE

### 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010

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although you left a while ago.  
Sometimes throughout the year just for  
a fleeting moment I forget that  
you're not here.

Not here to share a cosy chat or give me  
sound advice, to ask about the things I've  
planned and if my day was nice.

That's why life doesn't seem the same  
for when yours had to end. The world  
lost some one wonderful and I lost my  
best friend.

All My Love

Carol

xxx



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# CakeMotoring

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# Mokka moves in to comfort zone

By David Duffy

**V**auxhall's Mokka is the answer to a prayer that, until relatively recently, no one had ever uttered.

Even a decade ago, anyone looking to buy a 4x4 knew that they would probably have to settle for something pretty large, pretty functional and sporting a hefty price tag.

Then came the recession and with it the phenomenon of downsizing, with people demanding the technology and luxury of large vehicles in a smaller, less expensive package.

No part of the market saw this more than the so-called compact sports utility vehicle sector, which is continuing to grow with models ranging from the Skoda Yeti to the Nissan Juke and Qashqai.

With prices starting at about £16,000, and a choice of four trim levels, the rugged looks and muscular stance of Vauxhall's entrance into the segment cloaks an elegant exterior and a well-finished cabin, lifted by splashes of chrome and packed with the latest technology.

Riding on 18-inch alloy wheels, the Mokka has softer, less involved handling than a car like the Nissan Juke, with the emphasis firmly on ride comfort. So though the car, with its compact dimensions and battery of parking sensors, is perfect for city motoring, it also soaks up long-distance hauling with quiet ease.

This is particularly true of the

diesel version whose 1.7-litre turbocharged engine, though a tad rumble while pottering around town, settles down beautifully on the open road to give a relaxed ride, combined with excellent fuel economy.

Vauxhall expects just over half of all Mokka buyers to opt for the front-wheel-drive version, with the diesel proving to be the most popular engine.

Safety is paramount on family cars and the Mokka sports a full complement of electronic systems, from anti-lock braking complete with cornering brake control and brake assist, to an electronic stability program with traction control.

In addition, technology helps both with hill starts, and when descending steep slopes covered with gravel or other difficult surfaces.

The top-of-the-range test model is a truly high-specification beast, packing in everything from leather upholstery and heated front sports seats, to ultra-bright bi-xenon head-

## Auto facts

Model: Vauxhall Mokka SE 1.7 CDTi

Price: £23,699

Insurance group: 14 (1-50)

Fuel consumption (Combined):

57.6mpg

Top speed: 114mph

Length: 427.8cm/168.4in

Width: 177.7cm/70in

Luggage capacity: 12.8 cu ft

Fuel tank capacity: 11.9 gallons/54litres

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 129g/km

Warranty: 100,000 miles



**WELL EQUIPPED:** The SE model has heated leather seats

lights with beam levelling and a follow-the-road function, to an electrically-heated steering wheel.

Practical and user friendly, the Mokka has plenty of storage spaces, and a concealed armrest in the rear bench that also contains a cup holder. The Mokka Tech Line models come in a competitive equipment and pricing package, with colour-screen satnav, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth, USB connectivity and cruise control, making it an attractive proposition to the company car driver. A unique option is Vauxhall's FlexFix cycle carrier system, which can be stored in the rear bumper when not in use.

With neat touches like that, the Mokka could well be the answer to many motorists' prayers.

## Usedcarnews

### Logbooks 'vital when buying used vehicles'

IT'S EASY to let your head rule your heart when buying a used car, but a leading industry expert's warning buyers not to part with their cash if the vehicle is missing its logbook. Used vehicle data specialists HPI say they have seen a rising number of customers fall prey to sellers passing on vehicles without a logbook, otherwise known as the V5C, leaving them vulnerable to a number of scams.

Commenting on the issue, Phil

Peace, operations director for HPI, said: "We've seen a number of buyers going ahead with a vehicle purchase without having seen the logbook for the vehicle. This is an enormous risk. Buyers who don't see the logbook are missing vital information about the car, such as confirmation of the seller's name and address. Logbooks are an integral part of verifying a car's identity and ownership. If a seller claims to be waiting for one in the post,

the buyer should wait until the seller has it before continuing... If it turns out to be stolen then they will lose the car and the money, so it pays to be patient."

HPI offers its own vehicle status check, capable of verifying not just mileage details but also outstanding finance, or even if the vehicle's been stolen or written-off. That said, the bottom line is always ensure a car's logbook is present before striking a deal.

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## Wheelsanddeals

■ THE SKODA SUPERB Estate has been crowned Tow Car of the Year by the Caravan Club, beating off competition from 40 other entrants including Range Rover and Jaguar. Commenting on the Superb's ability, the judges remarked: "With a loading limit of 100kg on the roof, 80kg on the towball and a boot that scored maximum marks, it's a very tough act to follow. You wouldn't know you were towing a caravan." Skoda also won the £16,000-£20,000 category with the new Octavia 1.2 TSI.

■ THE RANGE-TOPPING Kia Carens has been upgraded with satellite navigation and a better stereo following customer demand. The Carens 3 is the basis for the new technology to create the Carens 3 Sat Nav, which uses a seven-inch touchscreen on the centre console and has seven higher-quality speakers. Prices for the new model start at £24,845, with metallic paint a £495 extra.

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2004 04 VAUHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN METALLIC GOLD	3 Door. Approximately only 40000 recorded miles, 2 owners, Aircon, PAS, Electric windows, Remote central locking, Radio/CD. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear	£2,995
2003 03 TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 T3 VVTi	5 Door, Dark Green, 2 owners, Alloys, PAS, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Aircon, Radio/CD, Good service record, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear	£2,795
2004 04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTI BLACK LOCAL CAR	3 Door. Approx 64,000 miles excellent service history half leather trim, Air con, alloys Radio/CD remote locking, Electric Windows, Electric mirrors, exceptional condition, fantastic performance sold with a new MOT full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear	£2,750
2005 05 MITSUBISHI COLT 1.1 EQUIPE	5 Doors, Silver, Low mileage, Aircon, Sunroof, Alloys, Radio/CD, Remote central locking, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, PAS, Great little car, Very 'roomy', Lovely condition, Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a full service, HPI Clear	£2,750
2001 51 VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE	Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Aircon, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new Mot a full service and a new cambelt, HPI clear	£2,495
2001 51 VW POLO 1.4 MATCH	Dark Blue, 5 Door, Local car, PAS, Aircon, Central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Very good service record, Nice condition, Sold with a new cambelt a new MOT and a full service, HPI clear	£2,295
2001 51 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 HDI (DIESEL) BLACK	3Door. Full service history. Approximately only 53000 recorded miles, PAS, Aircon, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Radio/CD, 12 months RFL only £30. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear	£1,895
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02 02	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI, Silver, 5 Door, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Air Bags	£13 ..... £2699
04 04	FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 8v 1.2, 3 Door, Grey	£9 ..... £1999
05 55	NISSAN ALMERA TINO S AUTOMATIC, Silver, ½ Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£16 ..... £3499

MPV'S &amp; 4X4'S

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WAS £7991  
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WAS £9291  
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WAS £15991  
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